A NARRATIVE OF

THE SUFFERINGS

OF

LOUISE FRANCOISE DE HOUSSAY, DE BANNES,

WHO SERVED IN THE ARMY AS A VOLUNTEER,

From 1792, *to July* 21, 1795;

WHEN SHE WAS MADE A PRISONER AT

QUIBERON,

WITH

HER EXAMINATION AT VANNES,

From whence ſhe made her ESCAPE, the Day before that which was appointed for her EXECUTION.

"He can't be wrong, whoſe *mind* is in the right."

POPE. *Eſſay on Man*, Epiſ. III.

TRANSLATED FROM THE MANUSCRIPT OF THE AUTHOR.

London:

Printed for the AUTHOR, and Sold by her, at No. 22, Maddox-ſtreet, Hanover-ſquare; T. BOOSEY, No. 4, Old Broad-ſtreet, near the Royal Exchange; RICHARDSON, Cornhill; LOWNDES, Fleet-ſtreet; H. GARDNER, Strand; M'QUEEN, No. 127, Strand; A. DULAU and Co. No. 107, Wardour-ſtreet; J. OWEN, No. 168, Piccadilly; HOOKHAM and CARPENTER, New Bond-ſtreet; and H. ESCHER, German Bookſeller, Broad-ſtreet, Bloomſbury-ſquare.

1796.

A NARRATIVE, &c.

WHEN Lady HARRIET ACKLAND accompanied her hufband to Canada, in the beginning of the year 1776, fhe met with general admiration; When, in the courfe of that campaign, fhe traverfed a vaft fpace of country in different extremities of feafon, and with difficulties that an European traveller will not eafily conceive, to attend him, in a poor hut, at Chamblee, upon his fick bed, every one was eager to do juftice to the affection fhe bore him. When, after he had been wounded at Ticonderoga. fhe croffed the lake Champlain to join him; in fhort, when after his recovery, fhe proceeded to follow his fortunes through the campaign, and that it was her lot, that the feverity of her trials increafed with their number, (for the Major, defperately wounded, was made a prifoner), the admirers of her beauty and virtues, fympathifed in her forrows. She then fent a meffage to General Burgoyne, fubmitting to his decifion, a propofal of paffing to the camp of the enemy, and requefting General Gates's

 per-

permiſſion to attend her huſband. Did not ſuch an undertaking from a woman, appear an effort above human nature?—Let ſuch as are affected by the recital of her alarms, hardſhips and dangers, liſten to the narrative of thoſe I have undergone, and then, after an impartial compariſon, decide, which of the two has a more proper claim, I dare not preſume to ſay to admiration, but to intereſt every man. Though my reſolution has been blamed by a few, I here appeal to the generous feelings of the Engliſh nation, which is ſo well acquainted with paternal affection, conjugal tenderneſs, and every other ſenſe that ennobles the human heart.

I am a native of Normandy; my name is *Louiſe Francoiſe de Houſſay*. My father, who ſerved in the Body Guards of the King of France, very little expected, that two and twenty years after the birth of a ſon, Heaven ſhould ſend him a ſecond child; yet it happened to be ſo, and I am the unfortunate daughter, whoſe misfortunes ſeem to be intended as a judgment againſt her, for having thus been an intruder into this world.

I was but fourteen years of age, when M. de Bannes, a relation of mine, who himſelf was but ſeventeen, made us a viſit. He ſoon paid his addreſſes to me, and at the expiration of three years, our parents procured a diſpenſation from Rome, and we were married in the year 1782. I

had

had two children by him, whose destiny I am ignorant of. The fond doating father, the best and most beloved of husbands, fell by my side, in the field of honour. It may easily be imagined how severely I must have felt the loss of a man, who never once in his life had given me the least occasion even of being out of humour. I cannot doubt but he now enjoys the reward due to his merits, that he is my advocate above, and that, through him, I am indebted to the Almighty for my escape, the very day before that which had been appointed for my being shot at Vannes.

My husband, being a nobleman, was elected, though he never before had been in the army, Colonel of the National Guard; but he declined the Commission, upon which, he was considered as an Aristocrat. We were both arrested the 22d of December, 1791, at *Mesnil de Briouze*, twelve leagues distant from Caen, the capital of Lower Normandy, and conducted, on foot, by twelve *Gendarmes*, to a town called Orbec, fifty-one miles distant from that in which we resided. From the moment we left our home, we were continually followed by a threatening mob, armed with cudgels. forks, spits, &c. from whose blood thirsty violence, the *Gendarmes* who escorted us, could hardly protect us. Amidst their repeated exclamations, *à la lanterne!* we were, however,

brought before the Municipality, in order to be examined. There we were kept during three days and three nights. The Municipal officers would relieve each other, without permitting us all the while, to have one ſingle moment's reſt.— During this long examination, which laſted ſeventy hours, I had nothing to eat but two eggs. A young man, belonging to the National Guards, gave me a glaſs of wine out of a bottle which he had ſmuggled under his *manteau*.

After having filled up ninety-ſix ſheets of very large paper with our examination, our *humane* Judges ſent us to priſon, under a ſtrong eſcort, ſo that the mob, though they hiſſed and threatened, were prevented from offering any perſonal injury. Thus were two unfortunate parents torn from their children! Oh, ye mothers, you ſhudder at the very idea! and we had every reaſon to believe we ſhould never ſee them again! How tenderly did my huſband addreſs me! alas! in return, I wiſhed to ſoothe his anxieties, but how was it poſſible my language ſhould convey perſuaſion, ſince I myſelf could entertain no hopes of being relieved from my own ſituation.

Thoſe who had arreſted us, ſearched my pockets, took away from me 8,000 livres in aſſignats. It was inſtantly reported they amounted to 40,000. However, much pleaſed with this valuable ſeizure, they did not ſearch my huſband with

their usual accuracy, so that we were left with 25 Louis d'ors in specie, and 200 livres in assignats. We were very cautious to live extremely parsimoniously, not knowing, on the one hand, how long our captivity might last, and for fear on the other, of giving rise to any further suspicion, which might have occasioned a new search from the keepers. We had procured a bed in the chapel, although considered by some as an article of luxury, but not being as yet accustomed to such hardships as I have experienced since, I thought I might indulge myself so far.

The populace were permitted to enter our prison, and they never failed to use the most abusive language. "To-morrow," would they say, "will rid us of these Aristocrats," and all anticipated the enjoyment of acting the part of an executioner; some even that of mangling and devouring our bodies.

During all this time, my husband, who was a man of unaffected piety, would join me and pray to heaven for the remission of our sins, and the conversion of our persecutors. Sometimes our beloved offspring would necessarily become the topics of our conversation. "Heaven! kind heaven!" would I exclaim, "suffer not the prevailing principles of irreligion and barbarity to be imbibed in their innocent breasts. May they never forget the virtues of their father"—"Nor the example

their mother has given them," would the bewailing father ſay. "Farewel, ye deareſt orphans!" would we then exclaim, joining in a chorus: "the ſanguinary tribunal has brought your parents to an untimely death; the hand of an executioner has ſeized them, but their memory will be unſtained. May you inherit their former bleſſings, preſerve your religion, and the God of your forefathers will protect you." Then embracing each other—but he is no more! Here I muſt drop my pen, and pay a tribute to his memory.

Three weeks after we had been confined, our Judges entered the priſon. They were come to read our ſentence; we had been found guilty, and the next day had been fixed upon for our execution.

When I now reflect upon my behaviour, on this occaſion, I am at a loſs how to account for it. Inſtead of ſinking into deſpair, I fell on my knees, prayed to God to ſuggeſt by what poſſible means I might effect my eſcape, a thought which until that moment had never occurred.

It was not long before a young woman brought up our dinner. "This time," ſaid I to her, "the "trouble you take, my dear child, is to no pur-"poſe, we have no farther occaſion for victuals, "we are to ſuffer death to-morrow morning."—She ſeemed moved by theſe words. I perceived a great alteration in her countenance, and proceed-

ed

ed inſtantly, by telling her, that if ſhe would aſſiſt in reſcuing us, we had 25 Louis d'ors which ſhe was welcome to.—The girl immediately replied, that ſhe ſhould think herſelf very happy to ſerve us, but that ſhe would not undertake any thing of the kind until ſhe had previouſly received the advice of her ſiſter. In vain did I endeavour to diſſuade her from it; ſhe was too poſitive, ſo that I conſented to her communicating the buſineſs to her ſiſter, towards whom ſhe haſtened, but I inſiſted, firſt of all, ſhe would accept of the purſe and twenty-five Louis d'ors.

My ſpirits were revived; Hope, ſweet hope, dawned within me; I deſired my huſband to call up the jailor, and to order plenty of wine.

Our keeper ſoon complied with the requeſt. He ſat down, and the bottle was handed round very freely. "Come, come," would I ſay, as I filled him bumpers, "ſince we muſt die to-morrow, let us enjoy ourſelves to day; let us drink it all up, we can do no better." The man ſoon got intoxicated, and we then found it a very eaſy matter to make him completely drunk, which was accompliſhed by the time the young woman was to return. The jailor was gone to bed before ſhe came in. I diſcovered at once by her looks, that her ſiſter had given her aſſent to the ſcheme; flew to her with open arms, and embraced her moſt cordially.

She approved very much what we had done. " The old man," said she, " is now quite out of " the way, but he has got two daughters, and we " must have it insinuated, that they must watch " the gates. Whilst they are below in the lobby, " you shall find your way to their room, which I " know is never locked : there are no iron bars " about the window, so, by means of your sheets, " which you may fasten to the bedstead, you may " easily get down both of you, without any dan- " ger of hurting yourselves; my sister and I shall " be waiting for you, and we will guide you a " little way out of town."

She then left us ; every thing succeeded according to her expectation : the jailor's daughters were no more to be seen than their father, but when the sheets were tied, for the very first time since we had been married, a contest arose between me and my husband; he wished me to get down first, I begged he would. The dispute lasted above a minute; when at last I pretended I should want him to hold me as I came down, for fear I might fall. To this argument he yielded, and I enjoyed the pleasure of seeing him at liberty first.

Our friends had been very punctual; they led us through the town into the open fields, and then we parted. " Heaven bless you both," were the only words we exchanged at the moment of our separation; words I never forget to say over with

a feeling

a feeling heart, when in the morning and at night, in a thankful, humble posture, I addrefs the Father of all beings.

It was one o'clock, the night very dark, and it rained very hard. The country we had to travel was entirely unknown to us. No one could we apply to, to fhew us our way, and yet we were to thank God for not meeting a living foul. After having walked at random through fields and woods, ftumbling every now and then, we reached a fmall town called *Bernai*, at fix o'clock in the morning.

Though at fuch an early hour, we dared not go through the town, but repaired, at the entrance, to the houfe of a fhopkeeper whom we knew. He fupplied us with peafants clothes, fome refrefhment, and thus difguifed, we drove his cattle through Bernai, to the fields, on the road to *Rouen*, whither we intended to go.

We now again purfued our journey, and travelled night and day, through fields and meadows, yet venturing, at times, to afk the neareft way to *Rouen*, from fhepherds or drovers, whom we thought the moft inoffenfive people.

As foon as we arrived at Rouen, we went to a particular friend of ours, with whom we remained concealed for a whole week, and indeed, I was fo exceffively tired, that a fhorter ftay would not have been fufficient for me to refrefh myfelf after my fatigue.

Before

Before I had left Orbec, I had desired my friend to let a certain person know, where I intended to seek for a refuge, so that we received, under a proper cover, a letter informing us, that enquiries were made through the country; and that it was thought very adviseable for us to remove farther, even out of the Province where the most industrious researches had been ordered to take place.

This letter also brought the intelligence of our house at *Mesnil de Briouze*, having been rummaged, plundered, all the furniture, &c. destroyed, and that they were determined to find us out, wherever we might think of secreting ourselves.

What was to be done? My husband and I held a consultation, and we concluded by agreeing, that the best and most suitable measure was to go and join our Princes. Now, again, I must recal to my mind a most interesting scene, when assuming an earnest countenance, I desired my husband to listen to me without interruption, which request being granted, I addressed him nearly thus:—

" You have ever proved faithful to that solemn
" oath which you took at the altar of the Al-
" mighty to love and protect me; neither have I
" ever offered to deviate from that I took myself
" at the same time to love, honour, and never to
" forsake you. So long as plenty and the com-
" forts of life poured their luxuriant bounty, there

" was

" was little or no merit in ſharing with you ſuch
" bleſſings: could I by my preſence and daily
" example ſtrengthen the reverence and affection
" to you with which I have inſpired our children,
" I would exert my utmoſt endeavours, braving
" all dangers, to go and relieve them, and act the
" part of a dutiful mother; but, alas! our ſitua-
" ation is ſuch, that a ſimilar ſtep might be termed
" an imprudent and raſh undertaking. You are
" going, my beloved huſband, to take arms in de-
" fence of our Religion; for the reſtoration of our
" lawful Sovereign; for the protection of the in-
" herited property of our children, againſt rebels,
" innovators and uſurpers! Can you imagine that
" ſuch noble motives are not capable of warming
" a female breaſt equally with that of one of your
" ſex? I am no longer permitted to diſcharge my
" duty as a mother; I am ſtronger and taller
" than the generality of my ſex: we are told that
" nature never exceeds her wants; I am no leſs
" inclined to believe that my Creator has permit-
" ted I ſhould be endowed with this bodily
" ſtrength, only, that I might be enabled to keep
" the oath I have taken never to forſake you. I
" am determined, therefore, to diſguiſe my ſex,
" to follow your fortunes, and to fight the ſame
" battles: the ſame hand which has delivered me
" from priſon, will aid and ſupport me in the field.
" Give your conſent, and I am happy!"

My

My huſband, in his turn, uſed ſeveral arguments to diſſuade me from this plan, but in vain: notwithſtanding his reaſonings, I wiſhed to gain my point, and had recourſe to ſome of thoſe endearing words which, at all times, act ſo powerfully when uttered by a woman, and eſpecially by a wife over a huſband; and mine was one of the beſt.

We made our friend acquainted with our reſolution, deſiring he would procure a peaſant's coat for me. Altho' I was uſed to a riding-habit when I went on a hunting party, I muſt confeſs I felt veay aukward when I aſſumed this new apparel. My brother, a Captain in the regiment of Beuvoiſis, a Knight of the Order of St. Louis, at the age of thirty-five, and who died Major of the Fort of St. Vincent, in the Weſt Indies, had ſometimes, during the carnival, prevailed upon me to dreſs in his regimentals, but it was long ſince, ſo that at firſt I really felt uncomfortable. However, as this was but a ſlight conſideration, compared with the thoughts of a more ſerious nature which employed me: "My dear brother," ſaid I to my huſband, "let us take the firſt fraternal embrace, "and from this moment, till we can ſee happy "days again, let it ever be preſent to our minds, "that we are brothers in arms. We muſt ſtifle "every other recollection."

Our friend ſeeing that we were determined to leave him, that our ſafety and his own required

we

we ſhould not ſtop longer, would not ſuffer us to depart without a ſupply of money, and we accepted of 200 livres in aſſignats (eight guineas.)

Once more we betook ourſelves to the roads, at ten in the morning, both of us in good ſpirits, and proud of a ſtaff with a leather handle, as is cuſtomary in the Province of Normandy, among farmers, horſe-dealers, and others of that deſcription.

The firſt day, though we travelled the high road, as we had made it a rule not to alight at any inn, but to have ſome proviſions with us in a kind of a knapſack, we walked eight leagues. In order to ſave our caſh, and to remove ſuſpicion, at an early hour we turned towards a farm-houſe, and petitioned to be admitted into the barn for one night, which even at that time, thoſe we applied to, could not deny us.

The next day we proceeded in the ſame manner, and from ſix in the morning we walked nine leagues; applied for ſimilar lodgings, and had our choice to ſleep either upon hay or ſtraw.

Be it ſufficient, that I got tired myſelf without tiring my readers. We reached *Arras*, not without much pain of body, but unmoleſted. We had croſſed the whole town, which is very large, when a ſentinel, a novice without doubt, unexpectedly ſtunned us with the cry of *arrête*, (ſtop). This poor fellow, who had neither a cock's head, nor a feather-ſpring to his firelock, but who kept

us in awe; was pleaſed to enquire who we were, and the following converſation enſued:—

Sentinel. Where are you going?

A. To Germany, to buy horſes for the *Nation*.

Sent. Have you got a paſſport?

A. To be ſure. Can you read?

Sent. No; but you ſhall read for me.

I inſtantly took out of my pocket-book, the very ſame letter which I had received from Orbec, read it aloud as if it had been a paſſport, and the ſentinel in the ſame authoritative tone, uttered the pleaſing word, "*paſſez*," and we proceeded on our journey.

I believe, I may be permitted to notice, that in ſudden emergencies, the preſence of mind of our ſex, muſt be univerſally acknowledged, as far ſuperior to that of the other, and my huſband would always leave me to extricate him on ſuch occaſions.

We no ſooner arrived at *Montauban*, a borough in Artois, than we enquired whether there was a prieſt who had not taken the oath, that is to ſay, who had not renounced his creed? We were anſwered in the affirmative; and as it proved to be on a Saturday, we reſolved to ſtop, that we might go to Maſs the following day.

I can hardly imagine, that any one of my readers will be ſurpriſed at our ſcruples: yet, it is not improper to inform thoſe who may be ignorant of it,

that

that although Roman Catholics are permitted to attend divine ſervice at a Proteſtant church, in a Proteſtant country, they conſider as ſacrilegious, thoſe members of our former clergy, who have adopted the new order of things in violation to their former oath.

It ſo happened, that the *Curé*, (the Rector of the pariſh) was the firſt whom the good peaſants of *Montauban* boaſted of, as not being an apoſtate: of courſe, we eaſily found a lodging, and after a very comfortable night's reſt, roſe the following day and went to Maſs.

The ſervice being over, we ſtopped, with mutual, though ſilent, agreement, in the chapel. We had received particular inſtances of Divine bounty, for which we were to return thanks; we had more to pray for; in ſhort, the whole congregation were gone, except my huſband and myſelf.

The *Curé* happening to go out of the church, juſt as we left it, followed, and overtook us. The moment he accoſted us, he ſaid, he had noticed that we were ſtrangers, and that he would take it as a favour if we would come and dine with him. "Though you may be poor," added he, "I ſhall aſſiſt the diſtreſſed; in caſe you are not, you will honour my good intentions."

We accepted his offer. The *Curé*, his niece, and ouſelves were the only gueſts. It was not till the dinner was over, that he enquired, in a friend-

ly rather than in an inquisitive manner, whither we were going? "To Coblentz," replied my husband. "At any rate, let me recommend you not to go through Orchies," replied the *Curé*, without any reflection.—Then, recollecting himself for a few minutes: "some of my friends," said he, "may be of service to you, on your way. I shall write two or three lines, and send for a trusty guide." The latter was soon procured, the letter was delivered to him, and we took our leave of the worthy *Curé*.

Whenever I spoke, I was very cautious, whilst my husband could not restrain from calling me, "*Ma bonne amie*." Dear was the appellation to be sure, but very likely to expose us to discovery. I desired him to mind his Brother, being very positive he never would forget his Wife.

Our guide took us to an Abbey. One of the tenants to whom we were introduced, welcomed us as being relations of his: we slept at his house, and the next morning, a trusty servant conducted us to the frontiers. At last we saw the long-wished for post, with the Spread-Eagle, and with heart-felt pleasure entered the Imperial territory, and arrived at Tournay.

Here we met with some of our former acquaintances. The Marquis *de Sommery*, gave us a letter of recommendation to his father, who was at Coblentz. My husband, as I have mentioned above,

above; having never been in the army before, ſuch a letter we looked upon as a moſt valuable thing.

We alſo got ſpecie for our aſſignats, and with 76 livres in our pockets, (3l. 6s. 4d.) we did not think proper to trouble our friends, as we had only 270 miles to travel, through a cheap country, and had acquired the habit of travelling upon *reaſonable terms.*

We were very much diſappointed when we arrived at Coblentz, not to find the Marquis of *Sommery* there. We had no money left, as may eaſily be imagined, ſo that we were forced, without waiting for M. *de Sommery's* return, to go to M. *de Prioreau*, Provoſt-General of the army, and to enter into the 31ſt Company of the *Hommes-d'armes*, commanded by the Marquis *du Chenot*. We ſaid, that we were couſins; my huſband went by his own name, and I by that of Chevalier *de Houſſay.*

Soon after we took our quarters at Bendolf, where we continued for three months, learning our exerciſe every day with great punctuality and application.

We meſſed ten together, and ſlept all of us in the ſame room, yet I was not apprehenſive of being detected. When I was ſenſible that every body was aſleep, I would ſhift my ſhirt: beſides I had an under waiſtcoat and a pair of trowſers,

which I never pulled off for fifteen months, when I ſerved in the regiment of Damas.

From Bendolf, we were ordered to Laterdorf, where we received our arms. By this time my huſband thought it would not be improper to diſcloſe to our commanding officers the ſecret of my ſex. They were much ſurpriſed at the intelligence, paid me very high compliments on my reſolution, and promiſed never to abuſe my confidence.

Some time after, we marched to join the army called the Army of the Centre, at Weſer, commanded by their Royal Highneſſes *Monſieur* and Count *d'Artois*. From thence we advanced towards Treves, where our army was reviewed by the King of Pruſſia.

We were afterwards encamped at Gache. Although I had now been inured to walking, I had not been accuſtomed to carry a ſabre, a heavy firelock, and a knapſack; and this latter I found ſo very troubleſome, that let the conſequence be what it might, I dropped it without any further ceremony. M. *de Côte*, our Captain, was kind enough to have it picked up, and tied upon his horſe.

The hardſhips I now had to encounter were indeed innumerable, but my ſpirits were ſuch that I did not even harbour the leaſt fear, when by night we were called to arms.

We

We were not permitted to continue long in the ſame place, and were removed to Trachédimouze, through roads almoſt impaſſable, on account of the heavy rain which then fell, and had poured, without ceaſing, for a whole fortnight. Here again we were two or three times, by night, ſummoned to arms, but as no firing enſued, I ſtill thought myſelf a ſoldier. Future events, however, have forced me not to entertain ſuch a good opinion of my courage.

We were then encamped near Thionville, for three weeks. At the time of the attack (although we had no other artillery than two mortars, and two pieces of cannon) I mounted guard, and was employed in warming the ball: the very word of red-hot ſhot would have been ſufficient to make me ſhudder in former days; but, in truth, at this period I acted mechanically, without as much as beſtowing a thought on what I was doing.

The beſieged ridiculed us, as really they well might; for there was not the leaſt probability of ſucceſs on our ſide. Their powerful artillery kept us at a diſtance, from which our ſhot could not reach them; our two pieces being of a ſmall caliber.

The ſame day M. de Waldeck, brother to the Prince, had one of his arms carried off by a cannon-ball, but inſtead of complaining, "*thank God,*" ſaid the gallant warrior, "*I have one left to fight for the good cauſe!*"

 The

The ſiege, if I may ſo call it, being raiſed, we marched through Verdun, the day following its ſurrender, on our way to St. Mihel: there we were under arms during the whole night. From St. Mihel we marched to the plains of Champagne, and from thence we made our *famous* retreat.

At a place called La Granville, not far diſtant from Longwy, whither our corps were gone, two of us were left behind to eſcort our ſick. The peaſants had carried away all their horſes, ſo that one of our volunteers went along with me to ſearch the neighbouring woods in hopes to find ſome there. At firſt I had only taken my ſabre, but, upon ſecond thoughts, and knowing how inimical the peaſantry of theſe parts were to us, I went back to fetch my muſket, which, indeed, was of great ſervice not long after.

Thus, doubly armed, I returned to my companion in the wood. He had not been able to find any horſes, and we ranſacked the wood for above an hour without ſucceſs, when at laſt we deſcried four tied together, and a man mounted on the foremoſt, who rode as faſt as he could. "Stop," cried I to him, and aiming at him with my muſket, I threatened to fire in caſe he would not inſtantly diſmount, and deliver the horſes. The fellow was frightened, ſtopped, diſmounted, and ran away. We immediately got hold of the four

horſes, and returned to the village; but as we beſides wanted harneſs and a waggon, we procured theſe in a very ſhort time, by compelling one of the villagers, to furniſh them in the ſame manner as we had done the man in the wood.

The ſick who lay at the Guard-houſe, for want of better accommodation, were very happy to ſee us, and to get into the vehicle, but we had not gone above two hundred yards, before the waggon broke down.

The Lord of the Manor, whom we knew to be a moſt violent Democrat, was the very perſon we choſe to ſupply us with another. We accordingly made to the *Chateau*, and ſummoned the *Seigneur*, to deliver his very beſt, without any further heſitation, unleſs he was willing to be ſubjected to military execution. The baſe villain, pretended he would do any thing to oblige us, ſaid he was a well-wiſher to our cauſe, and made many other proteſtations; but we were not inclined to liſten to him: a waggon we wanted, a very good one we made ourſelves maſters of, and went to relieve our ſick, who had been all the while in the middle of the ſtreet; happy, indeed, that none of them were hurt when the waggon broke.

Whilſt we were preparing, the Huſſars of Berchiny informed us, that the patriots were not far diſtant, and that we might be overtaken by them,

unlefs we ufed the utmoft difpatch. We exerted ourfelves, and in order to proceed fafter, my companion, after my example, threw his mufket into the waggon and took a whip. The poor horfes we lafhed moft unmercifully to be fure, but we heard a dreadful firing, which made it neceffary for us to go on full fpeed.

Our corps had left Longwy, of courfe we could not ftop, but were forced to drive on day and night, for four and twenty hours, when at laft we joined our companions at Arlon.

From Arlon, we immediately marched to La Grange, where we continued three days.

From this time, to that at which we were difbanded, nothing worth mentioning occurred, only that we were eight days without bread, or any other provifion but potatoes.

The reader muft recollect, that none but my commanding officers were acquainted with my being a woman. In order to remove every fufpicion of the kind, I fometimes would pay a few compliments to fuch Ladies, as I thought deferving of them. This had been the cafe, one day at a place called Ange. Our landlady's daughter happened to be rather handfome, I addreffed her in a very civil manner, and feemed inclined to court her, when a young man belonging to our corps, took it into his head to be jealous, and whilft we fat, fix or feven of us in our room, (my hufband

very

very fortunately was on duty that day), this young man offered ſuch abuſive language, that I found myſelf under the neceſſity of demanding ſatisfaction for the offence; but in ſuch a manner, that none preſent could ſuſpect any thing. Before I left the room I winked at the jealous lover, he underſtood my meaning, and followed me cloſe. We agreed to go to a private place in the neighbourhood, there we drew, and fought. It was very lucky for me, that my antagoniſt proved to be a bad ſwordſman; I wounded him in the arm, the blood guſhed abundantly, I dreſſed the wound, and we were reconciled.

This ſame young man, who had never behaved uncivilly before, and who from that day has ſhewn great friendſhip to me, has often laughed at the adventure, ſince he was acquainted with my being a woman.

I ſhall not trouble my readers with my own reflections on this laſt tranſaction, ſuffice it to ſay, that if, in reality, I had been a man, it would not have taken place, and that the diſcovery of my ſex, was the thing I moſt feared.

Although our campaign had paſſed without any real perſonal danger, ſince we never engaged the enemy; the fatigues were ſuch, that I wonder I did not fall a victim to their long continuance.—Nevertheleſs, when we were diſbanded, I found my ſituation ſtill more pitiable.

Both my hufband and myfelf were pennylefs, The Marquis *du Chenot*, when we went to take our leave, infifted upon lending me a Louis d'or; and with this little ftock, we proceeded to Sytar.

I would wifh the inhabitants of Sytar, to be recorded amongft the moft hofpitable people of our globe. As we entered the place, they came to meet and welcome us. We were taken to a very good houfe, neatly furnifhed, which, in order not to hurt our feelings, they told us was rented at half-a-crown per month. They would fend us frefh provifions every day, and in fuch quantity, that a large family could have fared very well with the half.

We continued three months with thofe honeft, and generous good people, but unwilling to be over-burthenfome to them, I prevailed upon my hufband to fuffer me to ferve another campaign, and to enter the corps of Loyal Emigrants, under the command of the Marquis *de La Châtre*. "I "can deny nothing you requeft, my dear wife," faid he, "but, how thankful I am for fuch un-"daunted affection, is more than I can exprefs." We then prepared to take leave of our hofpitable hofts, to whom we offered our Louis d'or for the payment of our rent; but far from accepting it, they warned us, that in feveral places, we could not procure lodgings if we were in our regimentals. They then took us to a fhopkeeper,

who

who let us have two great coats upon credit. However, about a twelve month after, I had the ſatisfaction of diſcharging this debt, when I was at Bruſſels, and the ſhopkeepeer wrote a very friendly letter, to inform me he had received his money.

We had proceeded on our journey, with intent to join the regiment of *La Châtre*, which was in the Britiſh pay, and had diſplayed ſo many repeated proofs of valour; when we accidentally met the Major of the corps *de Damas*, ſince in the pay of Britain likewiſe. He invited us to ſerve with him, and we readily complied; the corps we had firſt given the preference to, being at a greater diſtance than the little money we had left could carry us. The Major hearing our determination, told us, that if we would repair to Maeſtricht, we ſhould find there the Colonel himſelf, to whom we were introduced, and with whom we engaged as Volunteers, the 26th of July, 1793, when the corps was formed.

My ſex now was generally known: the Count *de Damas* introduced me to his family, who beſtowed high compliments upon me for my reſolution, courage, and affection to my huſband—alas! none of them could foreſee how ſoon I was to loſe him.

The corps being newly raiſed, we exerciſed every day for three months, at the expiration of which

which we marched to the ſiege of Maubeuge. Three weeks did we continue there, within cannon-ſhot from the ramparts. Several ſkirmiſhes enſued, and I will candidly confeſs, that when the firſt took place, I was frightened almoſt out of my ſenſes. "*We ſhall all be killed!*" I exclaimed:— "*My God, have mercy upon me!*" I trembled all over; but when I became ſenſible that none about me fell, my courage on a ſudden returned, and never ſince have I experienced any emotion in ſimilar circumſtances.

The enemy made ſeveral ſallies, but they never ſucceeded in their attempt to drive us from our intrenchments.

From before Maubeuge we went to Thouin, had an action with the enemy on the 3d of November, and had two of our men wounded.

The day following we took poſſeſſion of a village called Ham upon Eure. Our number was only four hundred men, and that of the enemy was double, with an army of twelve thouſand men at a quarter of a miles's diſtance to protect them. We made two and twenty priſoners, carried away twenty-ſeven horſes, and according to their own report, we killed three hundred.

Our next expedition was directed againſt the Chateau de Foſton, and our advanced poſts exchanged a few ſhots with thoſe of the enemy.

We afterwards marched to Liege, were we remained ſix weeks, and then, it being the 15th of

January,

January 1794, began a fresh campaign, marched to Namur, and from this place were sent to the out-posts of Dinan.

After having been stationed for three weeks at Custines, on the river Ess, we marched to encounter the patriots at Epraves, but they forced us to retreat as far as Rochefort. We returned to Custines, and were encamped in a small wood, in the presence of the enemy for three days. At length, they being informed by their spies that we were but a very small number, they marched a considerable force, easily dislodged us, and we retreated under the protection of the fortress of Zell. Not being permitted to pitch our tents, we remained here full twenty-four hours, on the bare ground.

The next day, at about two o'clock, the enemy advanced, 18,000 men strong, against our 300. Their cavalry pursued us at least six miles, but we were protected in our retreat by a division of Sarzbourg. The patriots, however, having taken possession of the heights near Dinan, thundered upon us, if I may use the expression, for I am certain they fired no less than six hundred shots of their artillery. Our escape I look upon as miraculous; for had we been ten times the number, it seemed as if we must have been all destroyed by so heavy a canonade. M. de la Basse-Boulogne, our Captain, had his right arm broke, and fell: two

of my comrades and myſelf had helped him up, and we were ſtill holding him, when a ſecond broke his left arm and a third three of his ribs, he expired an hour after. Five of my companions, who were behind me, were killed by one cannon-ball; my huſband was wounded in two places, the head and thigh; and myſelf alſo in the left hand and leg, but very ſlightly.

When we had gained the heights, I was ordered to go for a waggon to take away our wounded. I ſpeedily returned with one, in which I took care to place my huſband, and aſſiſted in dreſſing his head. This being done, I went back, but the Colonel himſelf ordered me to go for two waggons more. Whilſt I was gone in ſearch of them, our corps had been obliged to retreat, ſo that I found not a ſingle individual on the ſpot where I had left them. I thought they had made the beſt of their way through the woods, whither I betook myſelf in hopes of joining them. After having wandered about for a long time, I arrived on the banks of the river Meuſe, and I could plainly hear ſomebody ſpeaking French. There was a village adjacent; thither I went, and enquired from a poor labourer, who thoſe people were I had juſt overheard. "The Patriots," replied he; and I inſtantly took to my heels. At about ſix miles diſtance, I thought I heard a detachment of cavalry. Without much thinking how fatal the con-

consequences might have been, in either case, whether they were friends or foes, I hallooed out "*Wer da!*" I was answered, "*Carneville!*" a very lucky circumstance indeed.

The first waggon I had brought with me I knew had been ordered to Namur. I asked which was the nearest way to that town, and these brave fellows directed me in a very friendly manner. I walked all night long, and reached Namur at six o'clock in the morning; enquired were the wounded were to be found, and went to see my husband. He was in the hospital; his wound was not in the least dangerous, so that I did not stay long with him.

Our sick were going to embark for Maestricht; our drums were beating to arms; I saw my dear husband as far as the boat, and went, obedient to the duty of a soldier, to join my corps, which had retreated as far as Namur.

The enemy were not far distant; we engaged them, and fought very near five hours, without any material loss on either side.

For several days we were continually going backwards and forwards, till at last we arrived at Sombreve, where we joined General Clairfait's army, which was composed of 75,000 men; that of the patriots consisting of between 130 or 140,000.

The day following, the battle of Fleurus was fought: one of the most bloody actions that has

taken place in modern times. Upwards of 20,000 men were ſlain. The date and particulars Hiſtory has already recorded; it is not my province to ſay more. The enemy were forced to raiſe the ſiege of Charleroi, and to croſs the river Sambre, in ſuch a manner that the day muſt have been ours.

In order to refreſh ourſelves, after our fatigues, we were indulged with the bare open fields, and a very heavy ſhower. Had it not been for ſimilar hardſhips, we could not have reliſhed the comfort of pitching our tents at Andois, where we continued four days.

The 15th of June, 1794, another action took place at Jemappe. We were four hundred againſt five thouſand; we made ſome few priſoners, but had forty men either killed or wounded.

We were now on our march to join the Dutch, but could not proceed farther than Goſchelt. The patriots were in force; they attempted to blockade us; we were very near being ſurrounded, but providentially eſcaped, happy enough to retreat unhurt, and arrived ſafe at Quatre-Bras, where, during a ſhort ſtay of four or five days, we had a few ſkirmiſhes of no very great importance.

The enemy had rendered themſelves maſters of Charleroi, and there erected a new battery. We retreated firſt to Nivelles; from whence we proceeded

ceeded to Mons; ſome few ſhots were twice exchanged at the advanced poſts, which did not prevent us from going firſt to the woods of Brêne-le-Comte, and then to thoſe of Vanterloo.

On the 7th or 8th, we had another engagement, between Bruſſels and Namur, but I cannot recollect the name of the place.

The action of the 15th of July, called the affair of the Canal de Louvain, I ſhall remember as long as I live. We fought deſperately for nearly ſeven hours; our corps loſt 130 men; my huſband was one of the number. I was carried away motionleſs, and taken to Breda, with our ſick and wounded: Oh! that I had never recovered my ſenſes!

Eight days and no longer would I ſuffer myſelf inactiveto bewail my deceaſed ſpouſe. I thought it my duty to avenge him, and left the hoſpital.

As I was on the road to join the waggons belonging to my corps, I accidentally met Prince Waldeck; he recollected me, and enquired for what reaſon I wept ſo bitterly. I acquainted him with the cauſe of my ſorrow: " *Come and dine with* " *me to-morrow, Madam,*" ſaid he, " *I am engaged* " *at preſent, but then we will talk on the ſubject.*" I was as punctual as his offer was obliging: after dinner he took me into his *cabinet*, and preſented me with two contracts of twenty-five crowns each, a penſion which was to be paid to me annually by the

the agent of his regiment. Though ever ſo trifling the ſum, it was offered with ſo much politeneſs and benevolence, that I ſhall ever retain a ſenſe of gratitude to my noble benefactor. The invaſion of the French, and the ſuppreſſion of the regiment have bereft me of this reſource.

The Prince would have induced me to renounce my military excurſions, but I diſplayed too eager a deſire to avenge my late huſband; he did not inſiſt. Proud of not having undergone his diſapprobation, I think myſelf entitled to pay very little attention to ſuch as have attempted to ridicule me.

I joined my corps at Gertrutemberghen, from whence I was ordered to Grave, then to Venloo, to the advanced poſts there: the few ſkirmiſhes which took place, when at this latter ſtation, are not worth mentioning.

We afterwards went to Nimeguen, which was beſieged. We defended ourſelves for five weeks, but at laſt were forced to leave the town. When we retreated the bridge was partly cut down; the enemy had erected two batteries, from which they kept continually firing; but it ſo happened, that every one of our men eſcaped unhurt, though the Engliſh were very great ſufferers.

From Nimeguen we marched to Utrecht, whence we returned to the lines of Greppe, and to Fort Burſtai. We were ſix weeks at the outpoſts, near Putſen, Peldoren, and Bloxi.

We

We were very near being made priſoners at Hammelon, and forced to retreat from the town. However, the next morning we were ordered to attack it again, and as we had no ammunition, to carry it with fixed bayonets; but the patriots had already evacuated the place, ſo that we entered it without any oppoſition. Two days after they advanced in order not to diſlodge, but to take us. They were very numerous and formed a blockade, and we muſt have either periſhed or ſurrendered at diſcretion, had it not been for the late heavy rains and melted ſnow, which covered part of the country, and through which we were happy enough to make our eſcape.

At Bloxi, one of the places I have juſt been ſpeaking of, I met with a very particular adventure, which I have no objection to relate, as it may afford ſome entertainment to my readers.

My landlady, a young woman, about five and twenty, ſeemed to take a liking to me, thinking I was a youth of a tolerable good appearance. She would bring up my breakfaſt every morning whilſt I was yet in bed, and never left me without a kiſs or a ſqueeze of my hand, which I could not help returning; for although every one in the regiment knew that I was a woman, I did not think proper to let ſtrangers into the ſecret. This poor miſled woman would ſometimes find means of ſending her huſband out, in order that ſhe and I might ſit and converſe together. I was very ſen-

ſible of her meaning; I felt for her; but what could I do more, without betraying myſelf? She often would adviſe me to ſtay with them, offering to take great care of me, until ſuch time as I could return to my native country, and her huſband more than once joined in the entreaty. When I departed, ſhe preſented me with a ſum of money wrapped up in a piece of paper. I begged to be excuſed, alleging that my pay was quite ſufficient for a private ſoldier; and, that in caſe I wanted money, I had friends in the regiment who were ready to aſſiſt me. I then embraced her once more, and promiſed, in caſe I ever came that way again, to give her a call.

Although I have been a wife myſelf, and very much attached to my duty, I dare not, nor would I wiſh others to caſt too ſevere reflections upon this unfortunate woman. Had ſhe not been poſſeſſed of modeſty and virtue, ſhe might have taken the advantage of me: but I have ſaid enough on this ſubject. Let none of our ſex be more guilty, and they ſhall continue deſerving of that reſpect which is often refuſed them.

We afterwards proceeded to Northom, Debingtem, Linghen, Benthen, and to the advanced poſts at Daim. We attacked one of the enemy's poſts, which we carried.

After this expedition, we paſſed through Oſnaburgh on our way to Zell. We then proceeded to Stadt, and ſoon after embarked for Quiberon.

What-

Whatever may be the reflections of an Englishman, with regard to this last adventure, I cannot tell: but it proved most fatal to the French Royalists.

We embarked the 18th of June, and landed at Quiberon the 18th of July. During all the time of our passage, I was very ill with a putrid fever.

So much has been said already concerning this unfortunate expedition, that I shall only speak of such transactions as I was concerned in. In the engagement which took place three days after we had disembarked, four of our men were killed, and an officer cut to pieces by the patriots.

On the 21st, we were made prisoners at Fort Neuf. As General Hoche was advancing, our major exclaimed to me, "Chevalier, throw down "your musket;" but it was too late. We were immediately confined in Fort Penthievre. The Republicans carried away every thing I possessed, both goods and money. The same day we were brought to their camp, and kept there waiting for about two hours, after which we were conducted to Aurai between two files of soldiers. The officers frequently told us that we had nothing to fear, but should be treated with the greatest respect and lenity; and from their discourse we were induced to think they did not intend to sentence us to death.

We arrived at eleven o'clock at night, and were confined in a church. That gallant officer, M. de

Sombreuil, remained with us four and twenty hours, but the next morning all the officers were called out, and removed to separate prisons; that is to say, to different houses of arrest. An officer of the National Guard offered to procure my liberty, and promised to bring me one of his uniforms, that I might disguise myself, but I dared not trust him; besides, I was afraid if I went to his house, as he hinted I must, he would not suffer me to leave it without offering such usage as I dreaded more than death itself.

The 23d, at four in the afternoon, they took us to the road of L'Orient, but they thought proper to make us halt, and to separate the Emigrants from the rest. The General enquired who I was? and as I was advised, I answered, I was neither an Emigrant nor a soldier, but a woman. He then asked how I came to be with the regiment? I replied, I worked for the men. Why, said he, do you wear a man's dress? Because, returned I, it is more convenient, and not so expensive. But wherefore are you dressed in an uniform? It is an old coat which was given to me, as I could not afford to buy one. He then told me I might stay with the privates. The Gentlemen Volunteers, *(Voluntaires Nobles)* were conducted to a church, at some distance from that in which our party was confined. During three weeks which we remained in this prison, they allowed us no more than one pound of coarse bread a day, and not

even

even ftraw to lie upon; and to increafe our mi-feries, we could fee every day fome of our companions pafs by to be fhot, either at the town or at Vannes.

We were alfo removed to Vannes, between two files of foldiers, and again confined in different churches. Two days after, we were taken to a place called Le Pere Eternel; and, three weeks after, I was brought before the Tribunal.

General Lemoine firft afked me in a carelefs manner, whether my hufband did not ufe to wear a kind of a red fcarf or red ribbon. I anfwered, I had never heard of fuch a thing before. But why, replied he, it is no difgrace, far from it, it is a badge of honour. That may be, faid I, for what I know, but I never faw fuch a fcarf, and do not wifh to pafs for the perfon I am not.

He then began my examination in the following manner:—

The General. What country woman are you?

The Prifoner. My country is the Palatinate.

General. Where was you born?

Prifoner. At Henghen, near Sytar.

General. What is your name?

Prifoner. Marie Sophie Willems.

General. What was your hufband's name?

Prifoner. Francis Brans.

General. Why did you leave your country?

Prifoner. Becaufe we were told the French were approaching, which intelligence frightened us away.

General.

General. How came your husband to serve in a regiment of Emigrants?

Prisoner. We had no money; my husband thought he could do no better than to enlist for a soldier in the first regiment that should fall in his way, and this he imagined was as good as any other.

General. What is become of your husband?

Prisoner. He was killed last year.

General. After the death of your husband, what occasion had you to continue with the regiment, and to come to Quiberon?

Prisoner. To get my living.

He asked no more, and sent me back to the same prison, under the escort of four fusiliers and a Gendarme.

A month after, I was brought before the Tribunal a second time; I was examined, and sent back to prison in the same manner.

General Lemoine got information of my name by some means or other, and came to visit me in the prison, when the following conversation took place:

General. Have you not told me that you was a native of the Palatinate?

Prisoner. I have; and in truth I am.

He then asked me again what my name was? how my husband was called? what town or village I was born in? These questions I answered as above.

General. What would you ſay, if I was to tell you, that you are a native of Normandy?

Priſoner. I never was in that country, nor do I know any thing about it.

General. Your true name is *de Houſſay.*

Priſoner. This is the very firſt time I have heard it mentioned.

He then pulled a paper out of his pocket, and preſented it to me, in which was my name, and that of the place of my reſidence, at full length; but after having looked at the paper, I returned it, ſaying, that I could not read. The General ſneered as he put the paper in his pocket again, and then turning to a ſoldier who ſtood by me, and belonged to the ſame regiment, offered to grant him his pardon, and to ſet him at liberty that very day, if he would declare who I was. This honeſt fellow, (who by the bye was a Dutchman) replied, that he could not tell, as he himſelf had never enqui ed.

One day, when the women-priſoners were permitted to go out to waſh ſome linen, I went out with them, and had gone as far as the middle of the walk, near the quay, when I was met by an officer, who aſked me "whither are you going, "*citoyenne?*" "To waſh," replied I.--"You "don't know how," continued he.--"I have no "other buſineſs." Notwithſtanding all my arguments, he brought me back to the priſon, and enquired of the officer upon duty, wherefore he

he had ſuffered me to go out. The latter replied, he had received orders from the General to let all the women go and waſh the linen belonging to the priſoners. " Well and good, with reſpect to the " reſt of them," ſaid the former, " but this per- " ſon is to be excepted: ſhe is not to be conſider- " ed as a woman." He then gave orders that I ſhould not be permitted to go out.

Some few days after, I was brought before the Tribunal. The Court at firſt, repeated their former queſtions, adding to every one, that I was not a native of the Palatinate. I anſwered as be- fore, that I was; I even offered to prove it. They next aſked me, how long I had been in the army, and by what means I had prevailed on my Captain to approve of my entering his company.--" You " aſk me theſe queſtions." replied I, " in order " to make me confeſs, that I was in the ſervice; " but it was not ſo, and ſo far from it, that I durſt " not even touch a gun, ſo much was I afraid of " meddling with fire arms.

I heard them whiſper, that they ſhould receive more ſatisfactory intelligence from our ſoldiers. Accordingly three of my companions were ſent for, but great care was taken to prevent me from ſpeaking to them. I have been informed ſince, that when they were aſked who I was, they ſaid they knew not: whether I was not one of the *ci- devant Nobles?* They anſwered in the ſame man- ner.—What was my buſineſs with them?—That

I was

I was a ſemptreſs, and a waſher-woman.—Whether my huſband was an officer, or a private?—That he was dead before they had entered the regiment, ſo that they were not certain, but that they had heard, that he was a private.—They were offered a bribe in caſe they would inform againſt me, but they perſiſted in ſaying, that they could not tell things they were ignorant of. Yet theſe good fellows knew every thing about me. Their generoſity cannot be too much admired.

The Judges, ſmiling at each other, ſaid: "this "is not what the little man has told us." Whom they meant by the little man, I have never known. His name I might publiſh without the leaſt fear of expoſing him, as informers may well be conſidered as the moſt deſpicable of all beings.

Two or three days after, a woman, that intereſted herſelf in my behalf enquired of General Lemoine what he intended to do with that woman who was in priſon, meaning me; he replied, he could hardly tell what he ſhould do. The woman then ſpoke of indifferent things, in order to remove his ſuſpicions; yet, before ſhe left him, ſhe dropt a few words more on the ſame ſubject, and concluded by ſaying: "I hope, at leaſt, you will not take the poor wretch's life:" When the General, in an abrupt manner, retorted: "*Son* "*affaire ſera faite demain:*" She ſhall be diſpatched to-morrow.

This woman having obtained leave to come to the prison, informed me how matters stood, and that I had not long to live unless I could make my escape. I represented how difficult the undertaking would be, as the prison was surrounded by soldiers. She then left me, as she said, to go and consider of some scheme or other.

She did not return till the next morning, at six o'clock, when she informed me that the Guard had been relieved at five the preceding day, and that, as they were in a great hurry to march to Rennes, they might easily have forgotten to mention any thing particular about me. She then said, that if I should succeed in getting out, I must meet her at a place she appointed.

As soon as she had left me, I went to work immediately: I filled up with foul linen, a basket, in which some fruit had been sent to me; carrying that in one hand, and a bottle in the other, I walked off, and without speaking a single word to the sentinel, went straight to the gate.——"Whither are you going *citoyen*," asked he?—"I am a *citoyenne*," said I, "and am going to "wash some linen for the prisoners."—"Is it "customary wih you to go out?"—I answered in the affirmative; that I generally did go every day.--"How long shall you stop?"--"About an "hour, I suppose." He suffered me to go, and I did not alter my pace for fear of being noticed. At a very small distance I met a patrole, which I

passed

paſſed cloſe by, as if I had nothing to fear, and thought it was more prudent to do ſo, than to run away. They did not ſpeak to me, I proceeded, till at laſt I reached the houſe that had been appointed, and locked myſelf in, till my friend came to meet me.

She ſaid ſhe had prepared another apartment for me, but that ſome Republicans had taken their lodgings there, ſo that I muſt ſtay where I was; and as ſhe expected them in every minute, ſhe drew the table cloſe to the wall, ſpread a very large cloth over it, and deſired me to creep under. There I was forced to continue for eleven hours. The Republicans ſoon entered the room, and made merry with the money they had taken from ſome of my unfortunate companions, who had been ſhot that morning. In all probability, I ſhould have met with theſe fellows when I came to the houſe, had they not been amongſt the executioners; even their arrival was a circumſtance, my friend was unacquainted with when ſhe left me in the priſon.

I was almoſt ſuffocated, when at laſt they agreed to go and take a walk; as ſoon as they were gone, my friend brought me women's-clothes, and took me to a very good houſe, where I ſtayed three days.

It was then reported, that all the houſes in the town were ordered to be ſearched, luckily for me, a man from the country brought a load of wood; he

he was aſked whether he would take me to his houſe, he conſented, as he ſaw me to be a woman. My friend ſupplied me with a bundle of clothes and ſome money, and I followed the man, at forty paces diſtance, in order not to expoſe him, if any accident ſhould happen.

The next morning at four o'clock, ſome Republicans entered my room. I was in bed, they advanced towards me, and with a dreadful oath exclaimed, "now you raſcal, we have got you?" They now took me for one of the Chouans they were in purſuit of. I ſtretched out one of my arms, to let them ſee, that I was a woman; at which they ſeemed very much diſappointed. As the French language is not ſpoken in thoſe parts, I dared not utter a ſingle word. They then drew their ſabres and cut the bedding, to make themſelves certain there was no other perſon beſides myſelf. My ſhift was pierced in three different places: not ſatisfied with this, they overturned the bed, though I was in it, or rather under it; they found my pockets and bundle, which became their prize, money and all. The only article they objected to was a row of beads which they threw in the middle of the room, with contempt and indignation, and left me; in all probability to ſhare their booty, and go in purſuit of the Chouans.

But I was miſtaken, they had ſearched the pockets, and amongſt other trinkets had found a ſeal with my coat of arms. Accordingly ſix of

of them returned, ſaying, that I was a *noble*, a *Chouinne*, and they threatened to kill me. My hoſt interfered: they examined him; he ſaid that he had met me as I was coming out of the town; that I travelled a little way with him, and then requeſted one night's lodging, which he had granted. They were ſatisfied with the man's apology, and joined their companions.

As ſoon as they were gone, I recollected there was a letter in my pocket which might lead to a diſcovery of my perſon, if the ſoldiers ſhould ſhew it to any one who could read; ſo I determined on a ſpeedy retreat. The peaſant's daughter conducted me to another peaſant's houſe, where reſided two days, and from village to village, without meeting with any accident, I at laſt reached the coaſt.

For ten long days, I remained concealed in a cavity under ground, at a ſmall diſtance from the ſea-ſhore. The charitable peaſants regularly brought me as good victuals as they could procure. My patience was nearly exhauſted, when Providence, which had protected me through ſo many hardſhips and dangers, directed thither a long boat, which took me to the Britiſh fleet.

I was received on board the Arethuſa, welcomed and congratulated by all the officers, whom I was very cautious not to acquaint with my pecuniary circumſtances. I was five weeks at ſea, and after a very rough paſſage, landed at Plymouth the 20th of November.

It was my good fortune to meet at Plymouth, with the late ſurgeon of the regiment of Damas. He made me a preſent of half-a-guinea (for I muſt always ſpeak the truth).

I walked from Plymouth to London in ten days, and lived all the way upon bread and butter, and tea,---no very ſubſtantial food.

As I entered the Metropolis, I imagined that I might be better underſtood, if I were to ſpeak German; I accordingly enquired of a gentleman who paſſed by, whether he would be ſo kind as to direct me to a Roman Catholic chapel.

The perſon whom I had accoſted, fortunately was a German, and he very kindly came along with me as far as Soho-ſquare, to the chapel there.

After I had diſcharged my duty, by returning thanks to that Being, who had ſo wonderfully delivered me, I left the chapel, and enquiring of another gentleman, whom I had heard ſpeak French, where I could get a lodging; he replied, "that although his family was very large, he could "accommodate me," and I readily accepted of his offer. With him I continued two days, and would wiſh to publiſh his name with that of my other benefactors, but am prevented from fear, leſt I ſhould expoſe the latter to imminent danger, and my generous countryman to the bluſh of modeſty.

FINIS.